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NSC BRIEFING

11 May 1955

SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS OF 10 MAY

- I. A. The Soviet omnibus proposal on disarmament and reduction of tension, introduced by Ambassador Malik at London disarmament talks on 10 May, probably represents Soviet views on range of subjects that should come up at a four power meeting "at the summit."
- B. USSR probably anticipates closing out disarmament talks in London and the transfer of international interest to a four-power meeting on higher level. Omnibus proposal, packaging mild Soviet concessions on disarmament with adamant opposition to West German rearmament as envisaged in Paris accords, is designed to seize propaganda initiative and present points at issue in terms most advantageous to USSR.
- II. A. Statement did not include any substantive changes in Soviet positions on basic political problems in Europe and Asia.
- B. It did, however, introduce several new features in disarmament plan, some of which were borrowed from British and French proposals at recent London talks and are likely to appeal to West European neutralist and anti-German sentiment.
1. Moscow accepted British and French force levels: US, USSR and Communist China would have from 1 to 1.5 million men each; Britain and France would have

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650,000 men each.

2. Moscow also accepted British and French timing of prohibition on nuclear weapons--when 75% of reductions of conventional armaments accomplished.
3. Proposals imply no change in Soviet opposition to effective international control.
4. References to Germany suggest that Moscow may seek to concentrate attention on an approach featuring limitation on armed forces of the two parts of Germany as part of a wider European and global security and arms limitation system.